



2006-2007 SASS Clubs

- Aberdeen Middle School
- Centreville Middle School
- Chesapeake Bay Middle School
- Chestertown Middle School
- Galena Middle School
- General Smallwood Middle School
- John Hanson Middle School
- Mattawoman Middle School
- Oklahoma Middle School
- R.I.C.A
- Rising Sun Middle School
- Rock Hall Middle School
- Stevensville Middle School
- Sudlersville Middle School

To Obtain more Information
On the SASS Initiative:

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OR
Visit us at
<http://fha.state.md.us>

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Governor

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Joan Stine, Director, Center for Health Promotion
Lawrence Carter, Chief, Division of State Tobacco
Control Initiatives



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Maryland Department of Health and
Mental Hygiene
Center for Health Promotion, Education
and Tobacco Use Prevention

Why Should your School Participate in SASS?

Participating in the SASS initiative allows your school to become a part of the campaign to reduce the prevalence of tobacco use among middle school students and promote smoke free environments.

Students that are involved in SASS club activities;

- Gain knowledge about the health effects of tobacco use.
- Promote tobacco awareness in their schools.
- Develop strong communication skills.
- Become anti-smoking advocates.
- Develop leadership skills.



Introduction

The Students Against Starting Smoking (SASS) grant initiative is made possible through an interagency agreement with the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH), and Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE). As part of the agreement, DHMH hosts an annual SASS training conference with the participating schools.

Each year, the SASS initiative is offered to all of Maryland's school districts to:

- Empower middle school students to become advocates for smoke-free environments.
- Teach middle school students the skills necessary to avoid the use of tobacco products.
- Promote smoke-free lifestyles as a social norm among student populations.

Who is Eligible to Apply?

All middle schools in Maryland are eligible to participate in the SASS initiative and are encouraged to apply. Every year, the SASS initiative awards middle schools to support and implement tobacco prevention activities. The grant is generally awarded to those schools that submit a complete and creative proposal. The grant applications are sent directly to all Middle School Principals in Maryland's Public Schools. Applications are due by October 1, 2007.

For more information call 410-767- 4213.

SASS Club History

In Maryland, SASS clubs have existed since 1993. In school year 2006, there were a total of 15 clubs

located in ten Maryland counties with 404 middle school student participants. Each year, the SASS conference consistently attracts at least 200 students and adult advisors.

The annual Statewide SASS conference is greatly anticipated by the club members and advisors. The conference includes an array of motivational speakers, interactive group sessions, poster



contest, commercial contest, giveaways, and much more. The SASS conference is a successful component of the SASS initiative.

SASS Clubs Accomplishments

In the past, the participating SASS clubs conducted a wide variety of activities at their local schools. Some of these activities include; poster contests; newsletters; anti-tobacco presentations and assemblies;



community service projects; skits; theater presentations; anti-tobacco messages in school announcements; and bulletin board displays.

Other promotional events that they actively participate in are the: Great American Smoke Out, Red Ribbon Day, Kick Butts Day, World No Tobacco Day, Tobacco Free Kids Week.

All the various activities completed by the SASS clubs contribute to the overall decline in youth tobacco use within the State of Maryland.